

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a stepwise QoS scheduling method in output-buffered switches for broadband networks, packets are sequentially inserted in a sequence of windows on weight basis. The window size together with the weight of a flow determines the credits in a window for the flow. With sufficient credits, new packets are placed in the current window on a FIFO basis. Otherwise, packets are placed in an upward window being associated with sufficient accumulated credits.